
Large Pelagic Survey (LPS)

NOAA Fisheries collects data on recreational fishing catch and effort through the LPS. The LPS consists of randomly selected weekly telephone and dockside intercept interviews. Participation is mandatory. This information is necessary for accurate stock assessments. Please support and cooperate with this effort. For more information about the LPS, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

Coming Soon

HMS Identification Guide - Early 2004
International Pelagic Shark Stock Assessment - 2004
Amendment 2 to the HMS FMP - draft in 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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(301) 713-2347	

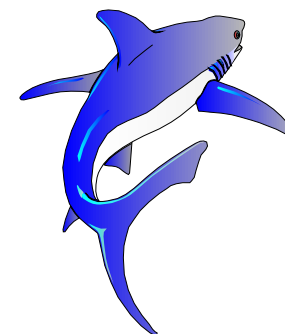
If your marina or fishing club would like to receive regular shark postings from our HMS FAX network, please contact HMS at (301) 713-2347. Alternatively, information about *all* Federal fisheries, including the shark fishery, can be obtained electronically via FISHNEWS. Please see www.nmfs.noaa.gov to sign up for this service.

Important Phone Numbers

Enforcement Hotline	800-853-1964
Coast Guard Hotline	800-SAVE-FISH
Southeast HMS Office	727-570-5447
Northeast HMS Office	978-281-9260
HMS Headquarters Office	301-713-2347
HMS Infoline	800-894-5528

Highly Migratory Species Management Division SF1
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Atlantic Shark Recreational Fishery Regulations



January 2004

National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species (HMS)
Management Division



This pamphlet was prepared in January 2004 to provide interested fishermen a summary of the recreational fishing regulations for Atlantic sharks for the 2004 fishing year. Complete regulations may be found at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/. The official regulations can be found in 50 CFR part 635 and the *Federal Register*. Since fishery rules are subject to change, fishermen must familiarize themselves with the latest regulations and are responsible for complying with current official regulations. This brochure is produced in compliance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

HMS Angling Permits

Owners of private vessels used to fish recreationally for Atlantic HMS (Atlantic tunas, billfish, sharks, and swordfish) are required to obtain an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries. Vessels for hire refer to Charter/Headboat permit information.

The angling permit can be purchased online at www.nmfspermits.com or by calling 888-872-8862.

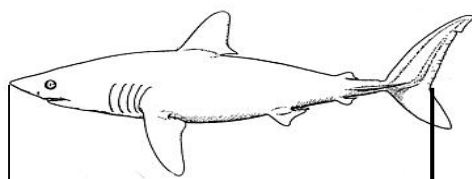
For Atlantic sharks, this permit requirement is applicable only when fishing in Federal waters, although state regulations may also apply.

No Sale Provision

Recreational fishermen (those fishermen who do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) are not allowed to sell, barter, or trade Atlantic shark or shark pieces.

Bag Limit and Minimum Size

ONE shark (any species that may be kept) per vessel per trip with a minimum size of 54" or 4.5 feet fork length; plus ONE Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus ONE bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).



Fork Length

Authorized Gears

Rod and reel and handline are the only fishing gears that may be used by recreational anglers.

Landing Restrictions

Harvested sharks must have fins, head, and tail attached through landing. Sharks may be bled and gutted if the tail is still attached. This regulation will aid species-specific identification of landed sharks dockside, which is important for stock assessments.

Release Information

If you catch a prohibited species or an undersized shark, you must release that fish to the sea immediately with a minimum of injury and without removing the fish from the water. If you are not sure of the species and whether you may keep it, release it.

Species That May Be Kept

Large Coastal Sharks

Sandbar	Lemon
Blacktip	Bull
Spinner	Great hammerhead
Tiger	Smooth hammerhead
Silky	Scalloped hammerhead
Nurse	

Small Coastal Sharks

Atlantic sharpnose	Blacknose
Finetooth	Bonnethead

Pelagic Sharks

Shortfin mako	Oceanic whitetip
Common thresher	Blue
Porbeagle	

Species That MUST Be Released*

White	Narrowtooth
Dusky	Caribbean sharpnose
Sand tiger	Smalltail
Bigeye sand tiger	Atlantic angel
Whale	Longfin mako
Basking	Bigeye thresher
Bignose	Sevengill
Galapagos	Sixgill
Night	Bigeye sixgill
Caribbean reef	

*Sharks must be released immediately with minimum injury and without removing them from the water.

HMS Charter/Headboat Permits

If you own or operate a charter/headboat vessel that fishes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, you must have an Atlantic HMS Charter/ Headboat permit. The permit can be purchased online at

www.nmfspermits.com or by calling 888-872-8862.

Sale of fish by charter/headboat permit holders is prohibited unless the vessel also has a limited access permit and the fishing season is open. NOAA Fisheries will select a percentage of permitted charter/headboats to complete a logbook for each trip. To volunteer to carry an observer to monitor catch and release rates and condition of released fish, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

HMS Tournament Registration

The tournament operator responsible for maintaining records of participants and results used for awarding tournament points or prizes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, must register the tournament with NOAA Fisheries at least four weeks prior to commencement of the tournament. Call HMS Management Division at (727) 570-5447 or visit the website www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms to receive a registration form.

NOAA Fisheries will select certain tournaments for reporting. If your tournament is selected, NOAA Fisheries will send you a reporting form that must be returned to NOAA Fisheries within 7 days after tournament fishing has been completed.

Tagging Information

To obtain shark tags and information on the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program, write:

Apex Predators Program

NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service

28 Tarzwell Drive

Narragansett, RI 02882-1199

or visit www.nefscsharks.nmfs.gov